

**In the Claims:**

On page 36, please replace claims 8, 10-13 with the corresponding claims below:

a7 8. The metal ion affinity peptide according to claim 1, wherein the metal ion affinity peptide is of formula 1, and wherein the affinity peptide has the amino acid sequence NH<sub>2</sub>-His-Leu-Ile-His-Asn-Val-His-Lys-Glu-Glu-His-Ala-His-Ala-His-Asn-COOH (SEQ ID NO: 1).

10. The metal ion affinity peptide according to claim 1, wherein the metal ion affinity peptide is of formula 3, and wherein the affinity peptide comprises the sequence (His-Asp-Asp)<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 2).

11. The metal ion affinity peptide according to claim 1, wherein the metal ion affinity peptide is of formula 3, and wherein the affinity peptide comprises the sequence (His-Glu-Glu)<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 3).

a8 12. The metal ion affinity peptide according to claim 1, wherein the metal ion affinity peptide is of formula 3, and wherein the affinity peptide comprises the sequence (His-Asp-Glu)<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 4).

13. The metal ion affinity peptide according to claim 1, wherein the metal ion affinity peptide is of formula 3, and wherein the affinity peptide comprises the sequence (His-Glu-Asp)<sub>6</sub> (SEQ ID NO: 5).

**In the drawings:**

Please replace Figures 2A, 2B, 2C and Figure 3 with clean copies of the corresponding Figures, attached herewith.